

February 13, 2020

Chair Rob Wagner
Vice-Chair Chuck Thomsen
Members of the Senate Education Committee

RE: Senate Bill 1572

Dear Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen, Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for considering our original letter, dated February 11th, 2020, regarding Senate Bill 1572. We appreciate that Senator Wagner, Senator Hass, and the bill sponsors share our commitment to ensuring that an inclusive and equitable process will drive a comprehensive review of Oregon's high school graduation requirements. We are supportive of the approach outlined in the -3 amendment, and would ask the committee to make clear that equity will be a core value in the task force's deliberations and final recommendations:

1. The task force should include appointees from federally recognized tribes, culturally specific and community-based nonprofits, and disability rights groups.
2. Students and families from historically underserved communities should be meaningfully engaged by the task force throughout the review process.
3. The task force's charge should include a deeper review of how Oregon's Essential Skills requirements impact historically underserved students, including students from communities of color, immigrant and refugee communities, low-income students, emerging bilingual students, and students with disabilities.

With the Student Success Act, the Oregon Legislature has affirmed that authentic community engagement is essential to expanding opportunity, improving outcomes, and accelerating progress for every child. Actively engaging a diverse set of stakeholders and the full State Board of Education will be essential to Senate Bill 1572's effectiveness and success. We look forward to supporting the Committee's development of the shared work ahead, and assuring Oregonians that high school graduation requirements are aligned with our state's historic new investments in public education.

Sincerely,

Whitney Grubbs, *Chalkboard Project*
Andrew Thomas Ayala, *KairosPDX*
Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, *Latino Network*
Roberta Dunn, *FACT Oregon*
Inger McDowell-Hartye, *Unite Oregon*
Bridget Cooke, *Adelante Mujeres*
Anthony Deloney, *Self Enhancement, Inc.*
Violet Nazari, *IRCO*
Côi Vũ, *Asian Family Center*
Bahia Overton, *Black Parent Initiative*
Brad Porterfield, *Latino Community Association*
Kylie Grunow, *Early Literacy Success Alliance*
Nathaniel Brown, *Oregon Business & Industry*

Toya Fick, *Stand for Children Oregon*
Jenny Lee, *APANO*
Mark Jackson, *REAP, Inc.*
Tamara Henderson, *NAYA*
Iris Maria Chávez, *Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools*
Annalivia Palazzo-Angulo, *Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality*
Jenny Pool Radway, *Lower Columbia Hispanic Council*
Andrea Valderrama, *Coalition of Communities of Color*
Duncan Wyse, *Oregon Business Council*



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MUJERES**



Coalition of
Communities of
Color



Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality



**BLACK PARENT
INITIATIVE**



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LOWER COLUMBIA
HISPANIC COUNCIL



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